

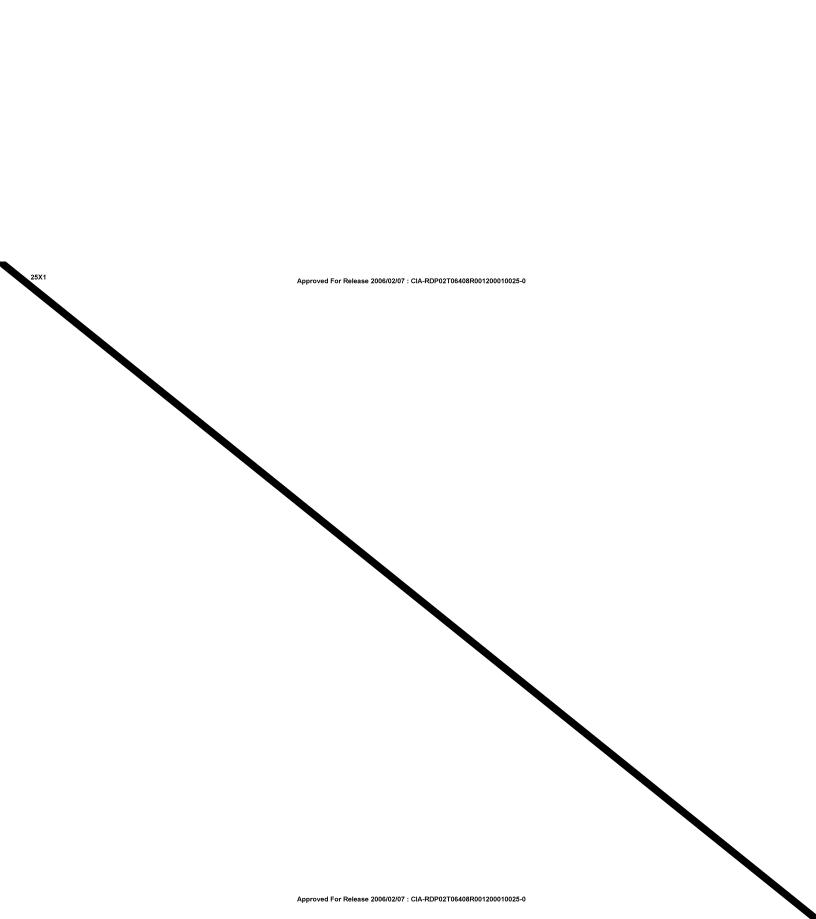
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STUDY OF SELECTED NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANTS IN CHINA AND NORTH KOREA FOR HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

SUMMARY

A study of eight nitrogen fertilizer plants in Communist China and one in North Korea has revealed only one plant with photographic characteristics of a heavy water (deuterium oxide, DgO) production facility. A new facility at the Chi-lin (Kirin) Chemical Fertilizer Plant is considered to be a possible heavy water production plant. Construction of this facility began in late 1963, and is still in progress.

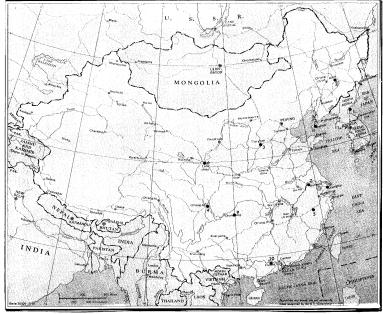


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP

| | 1. | Hungnam, North Korea | 39 - 50N | 127-38E |
|---|----|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | 2. | Chi-lin (Kirin), China | 43-55N | 126-33E |
| | 3. | Tai-yuan, China | 37-46N | 112-28E |
| | 4. | Cheng-tu, China | 30-53N | 104-20E |
| | 5. | Chu-hsien, China | 28-54N | 118 - 53E |
| | 6. | Lan-chou, China | 36-07N | 103-34E |
| | 7. | Nan-ching, China | 32-12N | 118-45E |
| | 8. | Tein-li Institute for Industrial and Chemical | | |
| | | Research, Shang-hai, China | 31-13N | 121-23E |
| | 9• | Tzu-liu-ching, China | 29-21N | 104-45E9 |
| 1 | ο. | Kao-yao, China | 23-031 | 112 - 27E |
| 1 | 1. | Ta-lien (Dairen), China | 38-58N | 112-37E |

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^{*} Available photography does not reveal a nitrogen fertilizer plant at this location.

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INTRODUCTION

photography was used for this study in an attempt to locate facilities currently producing heavy water, and to locate any such facilities that might be under construction. Such information may then help determine the capability of Communist China to produce heavy water or to obtain it from North Korea.

The methods of producing heavy water which appear to be best suited for large scale, economical operations are: (1) distillation, (2) electrolysis of water, and (3) chemical exchange. Of these methods, the distillation of hydrogen gives evidence of being the most economical and practical. For this reason, and the easy adaptability of the process to existing Nitrogen Fertilizer Plants, only installations of this type are included in this report.

In all plants studied there are some buildings and equipment which could not be identified as to process or function. Although these items have not been identified, the probability that they are producing heavy water has been negated for one or more of the following reasons: (1) There is no evidence of the typical security employed by the Chinese and North Koreans at their nuclear associated projects; (2) The facility is located in such a position within the plant, that it is not an integral part of the hydrogen or ammonia production area; (3) The identical building or buildings appear in more than one plant, and it is improbable that more then one heavy water production facility would be built at this stage of the Chinese Atomic Energy Program; and (4) The equipment or building was present within the plant before an active atomic energy program was initiated in Communist Chins.

No attempt has been made to incorporate all of the identified items of each plant into the text of this report, although, these items had to be identified in order to study the plants. It was felt that a detailed description would be beyond the objectives of this report.

HUNGNAM NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT HUNGNAM, NORTH KOREA

The Hungmam Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant (39-50N 127-38E), is the largest of its kind in North Korea, and is located 5.8 nautical miles south-southeast of Hamhung. Situated adjacent to the Wosan to Ch'ongjin Railroad on the east coast of North Korea, the plant is also afforded the facilities of the Port of Hungmam. The Hungmam plant produces a variety of chemical fertilizers, including ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate and superphosphate, and many chemical intermidiaries.

A detailed analysis of the buildings and equipment used in the production, purification, and utilization of hydrogen in this plant has failed to reveal any photographic evidence of heavy water production.

As previously mentioned, distillation of hydrogen and electrolysis of water are both considered to be economical for heavy water production. For this reason a detailed analysis of the electrolytic process and subsequent hydrogen production

Receiving electrical power from the Changjin and Pujon power systems 1/. The rectifier section (Item 3, Figure 2) converts the incoming A. C. power to D. C. power for use in the electrolysis section (Item 4, Figure 2). The electrolysis section produces hydrogen from electrolyzed water. There is no photographic evidence to indicate that the electrolysis process is taken beyond this point as it must be to produce heavy water. The absence of Barr towers (scrubbers of the partially enriched valous) is evidence that the electrolysis of the partially enriched valous is evidence that partially enriched water) is evidence that re-enrichment of the water does not

An additional source of hydrogen in the plant is a new Anthracite Gasification Pilot Plant (Item 31, Figure 2). The gasification or partial oxidation of anthracite coal is accomplished by burning the coal in the absence of air. By introducing air and (or) steam several gases can be produced, notably water gas (blue gas - CO+Hg) and producer gas (Ng+Hg+CO2). The presence of a small steam plant is suggestive that one or both of these gases are produced here. Purification of the gas(es) is accomplished by four possible CO2 absorbers (Item 43, Figure 2) and the possible CO removal section (Item 44, Figure 2). There does not appear to be any equipment present for distillation of the purified hydrogen, thus negating this area as a heavy water production facility.

REFERENCES

MAPS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0384-4HL, Scale 1:200,00 3rd ed., August 1964. (SECRET)

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- Shreve, R. Norris, The Chemical Process Industries, 2nd ed., McGraw Hill Book Co. Inc., N. Y., N. Y. (UNCLASSIFIED)
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- * Note: Items used throughout report.



HUNGNAN NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT

- Ammonium Sulfate Production
 11. Ammonium Sulfate production section
 12. Ammonium sulfate storage section
 13. Ammonium sulfate production and storage

 [The content of the c
- Sulfurie Acid Production (Chamber Process)
 14. Conveyor system and possible crusher
 15. Possible roasting section for second pl
 16. Acid chambers
 17. Roasters for first plant
 18. Possible acid storage tanks
 19. Possible sulfide ore storage building
 20. Probable third sulfuric acid plant

- Nitric Acid Production
 21. U/I building
 22. Possible air intake
 23. Low pressure acid absorbers
 24. Waste gas dispersal tower
 25. Probable acid storage tanks

- Ammonium Nitrate Production
 26. Reactor building
 27. Prilling towers
 28. Conveyor system
 29. Ammonium nitrate loading facility
 30. Prilling tower u/c

- Possible Magnesia Production 36. Production and storage section 37. Possible rectifier section
- Gas Purification Area
 38. CO₂ absorbers
 39. Condensing tower
 40. Possible contact oven building
 41. Gasholders
 42. Possible reform oven building
 43. CO₂ absorbers
 44. Sulfur removal

- Probable Urea Plant Under Construction 46. Production Area

FIGURE 2. HUNGNAM NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT, NORTH KOREA

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CHI-LIN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT CHI-LIN (KIRIN), CHINA

The Chi-lin Chemical Fertilizer Plant (43-55M 126-33E) is located approximately 4.8 nautical miles north of Chi-lin on the east bank of the Sung-hua Chiang River. The plant, which is rail-served, is similar in appearance to the Tai-yuan and Lan-chou Fertilizer Plants. A synthesis gas, containing hydrogen, is produced in the retort building (Item 4, Figure 3). The gas, produced by gasification of coal or coke, is purified through a series of absorbers and towers (Items 9, 15, 16, and 17, Figure 3) and is then compressed and synthesized into ammonia. An analysis of this process failed to reveal any unusual equipment or facilities which might produce heavy water.

A possible heavy water facility was, however, located in the northwest corner of the plant. The facility is presently undergoing a third phase of construction but was originally begun in late 1963. The first phase of construction was confined to an area within the wall surrounding the fertilizer plant. A possible pilot plant and research facility were constructed at this time. In mid 1964 the second phase of construction was observed. When finished, an electrical substation, a possible rectifier building, an electrolysis building, and a production building were completed in addition to several support buildings. A portion of the plant wall was extended to accommodate this new construction. The third phase of construction is now in progress, but it is to early to identify the facilities under construction as to specific function. A portion of the security wall was removed to accommodate the new construction, and the new wall is not yet completed.

REFERENCES

| | _ |
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TAI-YUAN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT TAI-YUAN, CHINA

The Tai-yuan Chemical Fertilizer Plant (37-46N 112-28E) is the southernmost plant of the Tai-yuan Chemical Combine. It is located on the western shore of a reservoir, 7.5 nautical miles southwest of Tai-yuan, China. The plant is rail-served and has access to a modern dual lane highway. As in many of the Chinese fertilizer plants, hydrogen gas is produced in a gas retort building (Item 4, Figure 4) in the form of producer gas (Ny-Fig-100). After purification, (Items 9 & 10, Figure 4) the gas is synthesized into ammonia (Items 14 & 15, Figure 4). Throughout this production phase there are no equipment or buildings that would indicate heavy water production. There are no other sources of hydrogen within this chemical fertilizer plant.

REFERENCES

| MAPS | |
|------|--|
| | U. S. Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0382-13AL, scale 1:200,000, 2nd ed., October 1960. (SECRET |

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FIGURE 3. CHI-LIN (KIRIN) CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, CHINA

CHI-LIN (KIRIN) CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT

- Ammonia Production

 1. Coal receiving and storage building
 2. Coal receiving and storage building
 2. Coal receiving and storage building
 5. Waste disposal conveyor
 6. Gasholder
 7. Possible crushing section
 7. Possible crushing section
 10. U/I building
 10. Possible reform ovens
 10. U/I building
 11. Possible Metlane Production
 12. U/I building
 13. U/I building
 14. U/I building
 15. Sultur removal and possible contact
 16. Serubbesor building (purpose unknown)
 17. Promable CU₂ absorbers
 18. Compressor building (purpose unknown)
 20. Possible oil filters
 21. Synthesis building
 22. Converter towers
 23. Gasholders
 24. Gasholders
 25. Supper Explosives Production

- Suspect Explosives Production 25. U/I building 26. U/I building 27. U/I building 28. U/I building

U/I Process 29. U/I building 30. U/I building

- Nitric Acid Production
 31. Air intakes
 32. Possible compressor and filter building
 33. Oxidation building
 34. Probable heat exchangers
 45. Probable heat exchangers
 46. Probable heat exchangers
 47. Building burders
 48. Medium pressure acid absorbers
 48. Waste gas disporsal tower
 48. Waste gas disporsal tower

- U/I Shipping facility
 41. Four semi-buried tanks
 42. Rail tank car loading facility
 43. Loading facility

Ammonium Nitrate Production 44. Reactor building 45. Prilling towers 46. Packing and shipping facility

Possible Ammonium Sulfate Production 47. Production section 48. Packing and shipping facility

Possible Concentrated Nitric Acid Production 49. Possible shipping facility 50. Possible shipping facility 51. U/f building 52. U/f building 53. U/f equipment 54. U/I equipment

U/I Process 55. Production building 56. Storage tanks 57. Warehouse/storage

vi. Warehouse/klorage Possible Heavy Water Production 58. U/I building 59. Possible upport building 60. Possible water treatment 61. Possible water treatment 62. Gas storage 63. U/I building 64. Suspect byte upon distillation building 66. Rectifier building 67. Electrical substation

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FIGURE 4. TAI-YUAN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, CHINA

TAI-YUAN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT

- Ammonia Production

 1. Coal storage yard

 2. Possible crushing section

 3. Conveyor system

 4. Retort building

 5. Possible methane production

 6. Incoming steam line irom the Tai-yuan Heat

 7. Gasbhders

 8. Reform owns

 9. Sulfur removal and contact ovens

 10. Probable CO₂ absorbers

 11. Compressor building

 12. Possible of littler

 14. Synthesis building

 15. Converter towers

 16. Forced draft cooling tower

- U/I Process 17. U/I building 18. U/I building

- Nitric Acid Production
 19. Oxidation building
 20. High pressure acid absorbers
 21. Waste gas dispersal tower
 22. Acid storage tanks

- 24. Gasnouers

 Possible Concentrated Nitric Acid Production

 25. IJ/1 building

 26. U/1 equipment

 27. U/1 equipment

 28. U/1 building

 29. Shipping facility

- Suspect Explosives Production 30. U/I building 31. U/I building 32. U/I equipment 33. Possible gas storage 34. U/I equipment 35. U/I building

- Ammonium Nitrate Production 36. Reactor building 37. Prilling towers 38. Packing and shipping facility 39. Warehouse/storage

- U/I Shipping Facility
 40. Four semi-buried tanks u/c
 41. Control/pumphouse u/c
 42. Rail tank car loading facility
 43. Loading facility

Water Intake 44. Control/pumphouse

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CHENG-TU CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT CHENG-TU, CHINA

The Cheng-tu Chemical Fertilizer Plant (30-53N 104-20E) is located 15.2 nautical miles northeast of the center of Cheng-tu on a rail spur of the Cheng-tu/Kuang-han railroad. Ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, ammonium, nitric acid and sulfuric acid are among the chemicals and fertilizers produced at the plant.

An analysis of hydrogen/ammonia processing procedures indicates that the hydrogen distillation process, much like that devised by Hydrocarbon Research, Inc., would probably be best suited for this facility 1/. On this basis, a detailed analysis of the equipment in the plant was made. Starting with the synthesis gas production (Items 5, Figure 5), the gas moves through a series of purification steps (Items 7, 8, 10, and 11, Figure 5). Following purification the gas is compressed and synthesized into ammonia. Since no unusual equipment is present along the flow of gas, from the initial production of the synthesis gas to production of ammonia, it is felt that there are no facilities within the fertilizer plant which produce heavy water.

REFERENCES

DOCUMENTS

1. NYO-889 (Del.) Final Report to U. S. Atomic Energy Commission; Low Temperature Heavy Water Plant, March 15, 1951, Hydrocarbon Research, Inc., N. Y., N. Y. (UNCLASSIFIED)

CHU-HSIEN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT CHU-HSIEN, CHINA

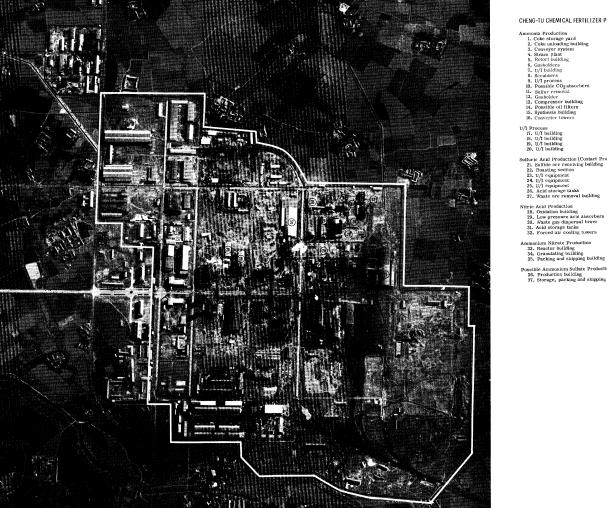
The Chu-hsien Chemical Fertilizer Plant (28-54N 118-53E) is located 3.5 nautical miles south-southeast of Chu-hsien, China, on a rail spur of the Chiangsham/Chu-hsien railroad. The plant produces a variety of acids, fertilizers and chemical intermediaries.

An analysis of the various components of this plant revealed no special chemical equipment or buildings which would be indicative of heavy water production. A detailed study was made on all phases dealing with the production/use of hydrogen. Item 4, Figure 6 is the gas retort building, and the presence of a small steam plant (Item 3, Figure 6) indicates that hydrogen is manufactured in the form of water gas (COH₂) or producer gas (No+H₂+CO₂). The purification steps and the synthesis of the gas into ammonia were also studied, but no unusual equipment was found. A second source of hydrogen is located in the area of the plant which makes chlorine and caustic soda. Electrolysis of brine (Item 36, Figure 6) produces chlorine, caustic soda, and hydrogen. A study of the pipelines adjacent to this building reveals that the hydrogen is used in the production of hydrochloric acid (Item 47, Figure 6).

REFERENCES

MAPS

ACIC. U. S. Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0493-20HL, scale 1:200,000, 2nd ed., July 1963. (SECRET)



CHENG-TU CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT

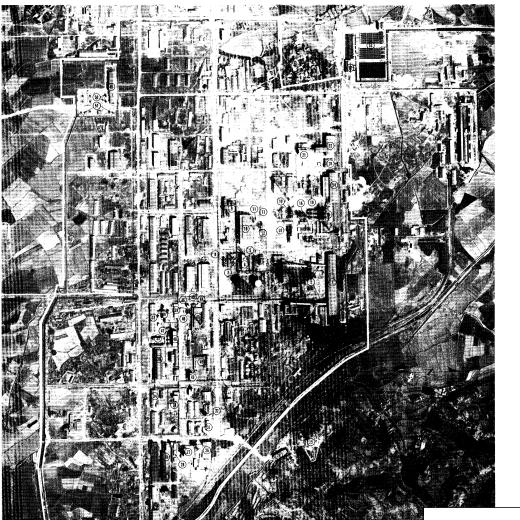
FIGURE 5. CHENG-TU CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, CHINA

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CHU-HSIEN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT

- Ammonia Production

 1. Coal receiving building

 2. Conveyor system

 3. Steam plant

 5. Gas purification

 7. Gas purification

 8. Gas purification

 9. Un processor building

 10. Compressor building

 11. Compressor building

 12. Possible aqueous ammonia production

 13. Possible aqueous ammonia storage
- Sulfure Acid Production (Contact Process)

 14. Psyrite or exceiving and storage initiding
 15. Psyrite reasting unit
 16. Converters
 17. Acid towe
 18. Cooling tubes
 19. Acid storage tanks
 20. Shipping facility

21. Reactor building 22. Storage and shipping building

Iron Production 23. Small iron furnaces

Calcium Caritide and Cyanamide Production 28. Raw materials storage 27. Kiln section 28. Calcium carbide furnace section 29. Activine and cyanamide production building 30. Storage building

Polyvinylchloride Production 31. Lime production section 32. Lime silos 33. Possible polymerization kettle section 34. Possible dryer section

ilydrogen, Chlorine and Caustic Soda Production 35, Rectifies section 36, Electropsis building 37, Itaw materials storage 38, Brite preparation section 39, Chlorine drying section 40, Caustic soda evaporation building 41, Caustic soda storage tanks

Sectrical Substation
49. Control/switching building
50. Transformers
51. Oil storage tanks

Water Treatment Plant 52, Control/pumphouse 53, Water basins

FIGURE 6. CHU-HSIEN CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, CHINA

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LAN-CHOU NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT LAN-CHOU, CHINA

The Ian-chou Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant (36-07N 103-34E) is situated approximately 14.1 nautical miles west-northwest of the Ian-chou Airfield. The plant is on the southeastern bank of the Huang Ho (Yellow River), and is a large producer of chemical fertilizers and ammonia. The process of hydrogen/ammonia production is identical to the process used at the Chi-lin and Tai-yuan Fertilizer Plants and for this reason will not be discussed at this point. It is sufficient to say that detailed analysis reveals no heavy water facilities at this plant.

REFERENCES



ACIC. U. S. Air Target Chart, Scries 200, Sheet 0363-22HL, scale 1:2000, 2nd ed., May 1964. (SECRET)

NAN-CHING CHEMICAL PLANT NAN-CHING, CHINA

The Nan-ching Chemical Plant (32-12N 118-45E) is part of the Yung-li Chemical Industry, and is located on the northwest bank of the Chang CHiang River approximately 10.2 neutical miles north of Nan-ching. The plant is served by both rail and water and produces a variety of chemicals in addition to ammonia, sulfuric and nitric acids and nitrogen fertilizers. The hydrogen/sumonia production is typical of other Chinese plants in that coal is burned in a retort building, (Item 3, Figure 8) and is then purified (Item 6, Figure 8). The gas is then combined with nitrogen obtained from the liquid air plant (Item 7, Figure 8), and synthesized to form sumonia. No facilities having the characteristics of a heavy water plant were observed within this plant.

REFERENCES

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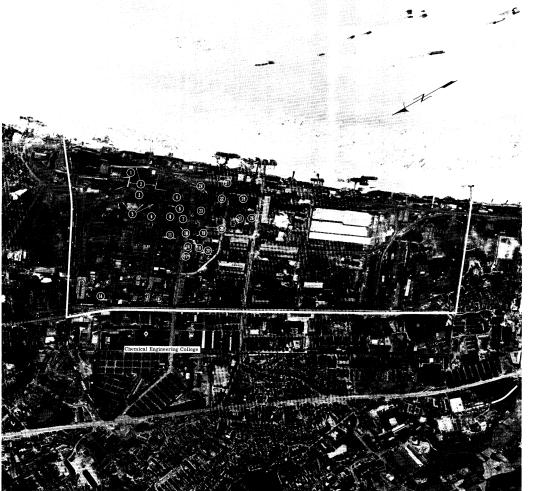


LAN-CHOU NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT

FIGURE 7. LAN-CHOU NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT, CHINA

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NAN-CHING CHEMICAL PLANT

- Ammonia Production

 1. Coal receiving yard and storage area
 2. Conveyor system
 3. Return building
 4. Return building
 5. Cashnoders
 6. Probable gas purification
 7. Liquid air plant
 8. Compressor seetlin
 9. Converter tower
 11. Forced draft cectling towers
 11. Forced draft cectling towers

Probable Ammonium Carbamate Production 12. Autociave section 13. Storage and shipping section

Suifuric Acid Production (Costnet Process) 21. Sulfide ore receiving buildings 22. Rosating section 23. Acid absorbers 24. Sulfar trioxide cooling tubes 25. Probable acid storage tanks

Ammonium Sulfate Production 26. Probable saturaters 27. Production building 28. Storage and shipping facility

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FIGURE 8. NAN-CHING CHEMICAL PLANT, CHINA

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TEIN-LI INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND CHEMICAL RESEARCH SHANG-HAI, CHINA

The Tein-li Institute for Industrial and Chemical Research (31-13N 121-23E) of the Shang-hai Chemical Plant (Figure 9) is located approximately 2.8 nautical miles northeast of the Hung-chiao Airfield on the northern bank of the Su-chou Ho.

The institute is involved in research on a variety of problems, including work on ammonia, nitric acid, and fertilizers.

Due to the fact that most of the projects at this institute are of a research nature or confined to pilot plant type facilities, identification of individual processes was almost impossible. A gas retort building, steam plant, nitric acid plant and probable ammonia plant were observed and are amnotated on Figure 9.

There is no photographic evidence to support the possibility of research work or production of heavy water at this installation.

REFERENCES

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ACIC. U. S. Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0492-2HL, scale 1:200,000, 2nd ed., August 1964. (SECRET)

TA-LIEN (DAIREN) CHEMICAL COMBINE TA-LIEN (DAIREN), CHINA

The Ta-lien Chemical Combine (36-58N 112-37E) is located on the western shore of Ta-lien Wan (Bay) approximately 3.9 nautical miles due east of the Choushui-tzu Airfield. The combine is a major producer of ammonia, sulfuric and nitric acids and several chemical fertilizers. Synthesis gas (containing hydrogen) for ammonia production is produced in one retort building (Item 4, Figure 10). The gas is then purified (Items 6, 7, 8 and 9, Figure 10) and compressed (Items 14 and 20, Figure 10). Ammonia is synthesized in converters in the converter sections (Items 15 and 21, Figure 10). No unusual facilities or equipment were observed within this plant, thus negating heavy water production.

REFERENCES

| MAPS | | | |
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ACIC. U. S. Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0381-10HL, 2nd ed., August 1963, scale 1:200,000. (SECRET)

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TA-LIEN (DAIREN) CHEMICAL COMBINE

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Sulfuric Acid Production (Chamber Process)
25. Sulfide ore receiving house
26. Ore roasting section
27. Acid chambers
28. Tower section

Caustic Sods Production (Lime-Sods Process)
31. Calcium carbonate storage
33. Bicarbonate storage and treatment building
34. Boller houses
35. Probablic classifiers
36. Resporation building
37. Caustic odd storage tanks

Possible Amonium Nitrate Production
46. Reactor building
47. Possible granulating and storage building
48. Packing and shipping facility

FIGURE 10. TA-LIEN (DAIREN) CHEMICAL COMBINE, CHINA -

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